

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Tran (1) rejected pending claims 1, 3-7 and 9-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,961,032 to Rodriguez-Cavazos, and (2) rejected pending claims 2, 8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodriguez-Cavazos. By this amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to obviate the §§102(b) and 103(a) rejections. Dependent claims 2-11 and 15-18 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, to place them in standard U.S. patent practice format. New claims 19-22 have been added herein. No new matter was introduced with the addition of new claims 19-22.

As to the §§102(b) and 103(a) rejections, the present invention discloses a control of switching transistors 203 and 303 relative to high voltage rail 201 and 301, respectively. This is accomplished by a coupling of high voltage rails 201 and 301 to gate terminals (i.e., control input) of switching transistors 203 and 303, respectively. See, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/028,379 at paragraphs [0115] and [0120]. By comparison, Rodriguez-Cavazos discloses a control of switching transistors Q3 and Q6 relative to biased voltages V_{b1} and V_{b2} , respectively. This is accomplished by a coupling of a base terminal of transistor Q3 to a biasing network of transistor Q7, diodes D3 and D4, resistor R5, and capacitor C1, and a coupling of a base terminal of transistor Q6 to a

biasing network of transistor Q2, diodes D5 and D6, resistor R6, and capacitor C2. See, *Rodriguez-Cavazos* at column 7, line 11 to column 8, line 55. *Rodriguez-Cavazos* fails to teach or suggest a high voltage rail $+V_H$ being coupled to the base terminal of transistor Q3 and a high voltage rail $-V_H$ being coupled to the base terminal of transistor Q6.

The Applicant has therefore amended independent claim 1 to recite "a low-power dissipating switching network which switches between said low voltage power supply and said high voltage power supply relative to said high voltage power supply" and independent claim 12 to recite "wherein said positive and negative polarity convergence circuits further include a switching network which operates relative to said high positive voltage rail and said high negative voltage rail". The Applicant respectfully asserts that amended independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable over *Rodriguez-Cavazos* and the remaining art of record.

Claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, dependent claims 2-11 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 2-11 are allowable over *Rodriguez-Cavazos* and the remaining art of record for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 1.

Claims 15-18 depend from independent claim 12. Therefore, dependent claims 15-18 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 12. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 15-18 are allowable over *Rodriguez-Cavazos* and the remaining art of record for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 12.

New independent claim 19 recites "a switching network switching the connection of said output stage to said polarity convergence circuit between said high voltage rail and said low voltage rail relative to said high voltage rail". It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that independent claim 16 is allowable over *Rodriguez-Cavazos* and the remaining art of record for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 12.

Claims 20-22 depend from independent claim 19. Therefore, dependent claims 20-22 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 19. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 20-22 are allowable over *Rodriguez-Cavazos* and the remaining art of record for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 19.

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office action of 12/19/02

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner Tran withdraw the rejections of claims 1-18, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Tran is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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